

## **USS Constitution Sailors Support Caps for Kids**

By Seaman Shannon S. Heavin, USS Constitution Public Affairs

BALTIMORE -- USS Constitution Sailors gave Navy ball caps to children during a Caps for Kids visit at Mt. Washington Hospital in Baltimore, Aug. 30.

Airman Matthew DeAngelo, Seaman Tracy Stevens, Seaman Lance Devero and Airman Michael Moore participated in the exchange of ball caps, laughter and dancing as part of Baltimore Navy Week, Aug. 24-Sept. 6. Rear Adm. Scott A. Weikert, Deputy Commander, 1st Naval Construction Division, Norfolk, Va., also participated in the exchange.

“The kids are all under various conditions that are quite severe, and this opportunity to see these children break a smile is a priceless moment,” said Weikert. “We appreciate the staff of Mt. Washington Hospital. This tradition is one to cherish.”

The Navy Office of Community Outreach sponsored the visit giving approximately 60 ball caps to children dealing with long-term or lifelong health issues. They also coordinated the participation of the Naval Academy Band who entertained children with music ranging from Taylor Swift to the Temptations.

“That was so much fun,” said Moore. “We got to make those children’s day. Their eyes lit up as we gave them the ball caps. This was an experience I will never forget.”

Caps for Kids became a national outreach effort in 2000. Since then, more than 300 commands and thousands of Sailors have donated ball caps to more than 500 hospitals across the U.S. This year, Constitution Sailors gave 30 ball caps to children at Caps for Kids visits in Spokane and Boston Navy Weeks.

Baltimore is one of 20 Navy Weeks planned across America for 2010. Navy Weeks show Americans the investment they have made in their Navy and increase awareness in cities that do not have a significant Navy presence.

“I absolutely love this program,” said Cmdr. Timothy Cooper, 71<sup>st</sup> in command of Constitution. “Helping to take away the problems of a sick child, even for a minute, is the best feeling in the world.”

Constitution is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston. She is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year. For more information on Constitution, visit [www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution](http://www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution) or [www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial](http://www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial).

